REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 5 to 12, 15 to 22, 25 to 27, 30 to 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 53 to 60 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 21, 26, 31, 35, 39 and 43 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 53 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly including a negative limitation. The rejections are traversed in that the reasons for the rejection are simply misplaced. Specifically, the limitations included in the claims are not only described in the specification, but also would be clearly understood by those skilled in the art. Nonetheless, the features which formed the basis for the rejections have been cancelled from the claims and therefore, the rejections are believed to be obviated.

Claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 9 to 12, 15 to 17, 19 to 22, 25 to 27, 30 to 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 53 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,072,067 (Leiman), and Claims 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Leiman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,205 (Carcerano). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

Initially, with regard to the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 8 and 18, Applicant notes that those rejections should be withdrawn and a new action on the merits issued therefore in light of the following. In this regard, Applicant notes that Carcerano's effective date as a reference is its U.S. filing date of October 22, 1998. Since Carcerano did not issue until October 23, 2001, and the present application was filed on March 27,

2001, Carcerano qualifies as prior art to the subject application only under § 102(e). Additionally, as set forth on the cover page of Carcerano, that patent is assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. Further, as evidenced by a deed of assignment recorded for the subject application on June 21, 2001 at Reel 011921, Frame 0235, the present application was, at the time of the invention, also assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Carcerano should be removed as a reference against the subject application for the purposes of a rejection under § 103(a) for Claims 8 and 18. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 8 and 18, and coincidentally withdraw the finality of the present Office Action and issue a new action on the merits.

Regarding the § 102 rejections over Leiman, Applicants submit the following.

The present invention is directed to a network managing method for displaying a device (data) list that includes a plurality of records, where each record includes device information (data) corresponding respectively to a plurality of items. In the network managing method, a first designating step designates, from among the plurality of items, an item to be displayed on the device (data) list, and a second designating step designates any one of the plurality of items. Thus, from among device information (data) included in each record of the device (data) list, a displaying step displays the device information (data) corresponding to the item designated in the first designating step, and does not display the device information(data) corresponding to an item not designated in the first designating step. Further, in each record of the device (data) list displayed in the displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device

information (data) corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step. Here, the network managing method according to the present invention is characterized by further including a setting step of setting the item designated in the second designating step to a display target of the device (data) list displayed in the displaying step, in a case where an item not designated in the first designating step is designated in the second designating step. Therefore, according to the present invention, even if the item designated in the second designating step is not designated in the first designating step, the relevant item is set to the display target of the device list. For this reason, it is possible to eliminate such a situation as, when the device list is displayed, the device information corresponding to the item which is the basis of order for arranging the respective records of the device list is not displayed on the list. Thus, a user of the device list can know that the respective records are arranged according to the content of the device information corresponding to which of the plural items.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a network managing method for providing a device list that includes a plurality of records, each record including device information corresponding respectively to a plurality of items, the network managing method comprising a displaying step of displaying the device list, a first designating step of designating, from among the plurality of items, an item to be displayed on the device list, wherein, from among the device information included in each record of the device list, the displaying step displays the device information corresponding to the item designated in the first designating step and does not display the device information corresponding to the items not designated in the first designating step, a second designating step of designating any one of the plurality of

items, wherein, in each record of the device list displayed in the displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device information corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step, and a setting step of setting the item designated in the second designating step to a display target of the device list displayed in the displaying step, in a case where an item not designated in the first designating step is designated in the second designating step, wherein the displaying step displays the device list including each record rearranged according to the content of the device information corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step.

Claims 11, 21 and 26 are apparatus, program, and recording medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Claim 31 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a displaying a data list that include data rather than displaying a device list that includes device information. Thus, Claim 31 is a method of providing a data list that displays data that includes a plurality of records, each record including data corresponding respectively to a plurality of items, comprising the steps of a displaying step of displaying the data list, a first designating step of designating, from among the plurality of items, an item to be displayed on the data list, wherein, from among the data included in each record of the data list, the displaying step displays the data corresponding to the item designated in the first designating step and does not display the data corresponding to an item not designated in the first designating step, a second designating step of designating any one of the plurality of items, wherein, in each record of the data list displayed in the displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the data corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step, and a setting step of

setting the item designating in the second designating step to a display target of the data list displayed in the displaying step, in a case where an item not designated in the first designating step is designated in the second designating step, wherein the displaying step displays the data list including each record rearranged according to the content of the data corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step.

Claims 35, 39 and 43 are apparatus, program, and recording medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 31.

The applied art of Leiman is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 11, 21, 26, 31, 35, 39 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a second designating means/step of designating any one of a plurality of items, wherein, in each record of a device (data) list displayed in a displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device information (data) corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step, and a setting means/step of setting the item designating in the second designating step to a display target of the device (data) list displayed in the displaying step, in a case where an item not designated in a first designating step is designated in the second designating step, wherein the displaying step displays the device (data) list including each record rearranged according to the content of the device information (data) corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step.

Leiman merely discloses that a list of printers and clients is displayed on an open print server in the print system (Fig. 6), and that the printer and the client to be display targets can be designated through a dialog box (Figs. 7 and 8). Leiman also discloses that a job queue list (job queue status table) is displayed on the open print server

(Fig. 9), and that the job queue status table can be sorted according to the job items (Fig. 10). More specifically, as shown in Fig. 13 of Leiman, if "source" is selected and then "CPU 1" is selected, only the jobs that the source is the CPU 1 are listed and displayed on the job queue status table. From the foregoing, it seems that Leiman discloses a point which is similar to the claimed "first designating step" of the present invention. Accordingly, it will be possible in Leiman to select the display target when displaying the list.

However, Leiman is quite silent about the claimed "second designating step of designating any one of the plurality of items, wherein, in each record of the device (data) list displayed in said displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device information (data) corresponding to the item designated in said second designating step" in the present invention. That is, Leiman (Fig. 13) merely discloses that, if "source" and "CPU 1" are selected from the job queue status table, only the jobs that the source is the CPU 1 are displayed. In other words, all the jobs are not displayed in Leiman. More specifically, in Leiman, there are six records of jobs that the source is the CPU 1, and the order thereof has not changed from that initially displayed in the list. For example, the job name "FNAD174" is the first and the job name "FNASD80C" is the second, and this order is not changed.

In addition, Leiman is silent about the claimed "setting step of setting the item designated in said second designating step to a display target of the device (data) list displayed in said displaying step, in a case where the item not designated in said first designating step is designated in said second designating step" in the present invention. Here, Leiman does not essentially need such a step corresponding to the setting step of the

present invention because Leiman does not assume that the target not designated in the first designating step is then displayed. For example, in Leiman, the printer and the client not selected in Fig. 7 or 8 are never displayed in the list of Fig. 6. Further, if the CPU 1 being the source is selected in Fig. 13, a job that the source is not the CPU 1 is never displayed. Thus, it is apparent in Leiman that the item not designated in the first designating step is set to the display target for some reason.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of Leiman, Claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 9 to 12, 15 to 17, 19 to 22, 25 to 27, 30 to 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 53 to 60 are not believed to be anticipated and are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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